Dehang and Subansiri Dam Projects

4536. SHRI UDOHAD BARMAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dehang and Subansiri Dam Projects prepared by the Brahmaputra Board have been cleared by the Union Government;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any objection has ben raised against th implementation of these projects; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to overcome the objection?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (d). Detailed surveys and investigations for the Dehang and Subansiri Dam projects could not be completed due to reservations expressed by Arunachal Pradesh owing to submergence of their territory. The Ministry of Water Resources has requested the Government of Arunachal Pradesh for their concurrence but this has not been received.

Alleged Irregularities in HCL

4537. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news item captioned "Corruption rampant in HCL, allege users" appearing in the Financial Express, New Delhi dated November 25, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to ensure efficient working of the HCL;

(c) whether the Union Government have drawn up any policy for supply of copper to industries and particularly to the small scale units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the news item, winding wire manufactures have made the following allegations against HCL attributing it to rampant corruption in its Delhi Office:

(i) Irregularities in accounting in terms of non-despatch of letters of registration, monthly offer letters, and statement of account to customers since April, 1991 and customer billings for copper "ifted from the godown since July, 1991; and

(ii) lack of well defined policy for supplying copper.

HCL has ben supplying copper to its customers strictly in accordance with the Government's distribution policy. Due to disruption in computer operations in May, 1991 in their Delhi Office, there has been some delay on the part of the Company in sending individual communications to its customers regarding monthly allotment, statement of accounts, etc. but the various associations of the consumers were kept informed periodically about the distribution policy and the consumers have been lifting as per their entitlement. There has been no instance where allocation was made to any customer in excess of his monthly entitlement. the billings for copper lifted from Delhi Region have since been made current. Thus, the charges of corruption for the news-item are not substantiated by facts.

(c) and (d). Under the news Trade Policy, while imports of primary copper against EXIM Scrips have ben allowed, the small scale units have been permitted to import against supplementary licences with free foreign exchange.

Assistance to Iran for Development of Agriculture

4538. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iran has sought the Indian assistance for the development of agriculture in that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any mutual agreement has been reached between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof:

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Iran desires cooperation with India in the field of agricultural research and training involving exchanges of scientists and experts, higher education facilities for Iranian students and experts in various disciplines in India, technology exchanges, collaborative research projects, and exchanges of publications and research materials.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding between Iran and India for cooperation in the field of agricultural research and education was concluded at Tehran on 11 November, 1991.

Pipeline from Haldia to Barauni

4539. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the stps taken to implement the project proposal of laying a pipeline from Haldia to Barauni; and

(b) the details of the cost escalation of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b). Indian Oil Corporation is examining various options in this regard.

[*Translation*]

Allotment of Petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG Agencies in Orissa

4540. SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA: SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any representation from the Members of Parliament regarding allotment of petrol pumps and LPG gas agencies in Jagmohanpur, Bramnipal and Ghotegoan in Keonjher District of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b). Representations are received regularly for opening of petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG agencies in different places of the country including those in Orissa. The oil companies on the